

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 L-03 SS-20 /035 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EA:CHILL:YLP

APPROVED BY CU/EA:FBTENNY

EA/PRCM - MR. BROOKS (DRAFT)

L/ECP - MR. MAURER

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R 242340Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110285

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:SCUL, CH

SUBJECT CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION: MUSEUMS, CATALOG,
AND DATES

REF: PEKING 0761

1. YOU SHOULD REQUEST MEETING WITH CHINESE TO TAKE UP
SEVERAL MATTERS CONCERNING EXHIBITION PRIOR TO DISCUSSION
OF TEXTS OF LETTERS AND PROTOCOL. YOU MAY TELL CHINESE
WE REGRET THAT BUREAUCRATIC ERROR ON OUR SIDE DELAYED
ARRIVAL OF THEIR PROPOSED TEXTS IN WASHINGTON, BUT THAT
WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THEM ON QUESTION OF
TEXTS BY FIRST WEEK IN JUNE IN HOPE OF MEETING THEIR
EXPRESSED WISH (REFTEL) FOR EARLY AGREEMENT. PRELIMINARY
TO THIS, HOWEVER, ARE FOLLOWING ITEMS WHICH WE WISH TO
TAKE UP.

2. SECOND AMERICAN MUSEUM - YOU SHOULD INFORM PRC THAT
WE HAVE SELECTED NATIONAL GALLERY IN WASHINGTON AND
NELSON-ATKINS GALLERY OF KANSAS CITY AS SITES FOR THE
EXHIBITION. WE WILL BE POUCHING MATERIALS ON BOTH
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INSTITUTIONS FOR YOUR AND PRC'S INFORMATION. IF ASKED

ABOUT KANSAS CITY SELECTION YOU MAY SAY THAT ITS MUSEUM IS OUTSTANDING AND THAT CURATOR, LAURENCE SICKMAN, IS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST PROMINENT CHINESE ART SCHOLARS. SICKMAN WAS MEMBER OF US ARCHEOLOGY DELEGATION TO PRC LAST NOVEMBER. SELECTION OF KANSAS CITY, AGRICULTURAL CENTER OF AMERICAN MIDWEST -- AN AREA INFLUENTIAL IN US FOREIGN POLICY -- WILL PROVIDE THIS SECTOR OF AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH RARE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE EVIDENCE OF US-PRC RELATIONSHIP. CENTRAL LOCATION ALSO WILL DRAW VISITORS FROM SOUTH, SOUTHWEST AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREAS. YOU SHOULD TELL CHINESE THAT ALTHOUGH WE WILL NOT ISSUE ANY OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE UNTIL AFTER AGREEMENT CONCLUDED AMERICAN PRESS LIKELY TO GET WIND OF STORY AND REPORT IT SOON. WE OF COURSE WILL PROVIDE PRCLO WITH COPIES OF ALL OFFICIAL PUBLICITY RELEASES. (FYI: WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHINESE WANTED VETO AUTHORITY OVER CANADIAN PUBLICITY RELEASES, BUT SETTLED FOR ARRANGEMENT BY WHICH CANADIANS WOULD PROVIDE PRC EMBASSY WITH COPY OF OFFICIAL RELEASES SIMULTANEOUS WITH ISSUANCE TO PUBLIC. WE WANT SAME ARRANGEMENT BUT YOU SHOULD NOT RAISE MATTER FIRST.)

3. U.S. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION - YOU MAY INFORM CHINESE THAT U.S. HOST ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL SIGN PROTOCOL WILL BE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART'S U.S. COMMITTEE FOR THE CHINESE EXHIBITION (MEI GUO GUO LI MEI SHU GUAN DE ZHONG GUO ZHAN LAN WEI YUAN HUI). THE COMMITTEE WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS FROM KANSAS CITY AND OTHER MAJOR U.S. CITIES AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXHIBITION THROUGHOUT ITS STAY IN U.S. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMITTEE AND ASSIST IN ARRANGEMENTS.

4. CATALOGUE AND ORDER OF DISPLAY - YOU SHOULD TELL CHINESE THAT WE WISH THEIR GUIDANCE ON ORDER OF DISPLAY FOR EXHIBITS (WHICH UNDER ARTICLE ONE OF PROTOCOL IS TO BE DETERMINED BY CHINESE SIDE) AS THIS IS KEY FACTOR IN PREPARING CATALOG. FOR FINANCIAL REASONS WE WISH TO USE SAME TEXT AS CANADIANS BUT BEFORE ORDERING FROM PRINTER WISH TO KNOW WHETHER CANADIAN CATALOGUE IN FACT HAS PRC APPROVAL AND FOLLOWS ORDER OF DISPLAY DESIRED BY CHINESE. CONFIDENTIAL

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(FYI: WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT CANADIANS HAVE MADE NUMEROUS ALTERATIONS IN BRITISH CATALOG IN ORDER TO MEET WHAT CANADIANS BELIEVE TO BE PRC OBJECTIONS. WE ARE TOLD THAT CANADIANS HAVE DISCUSSED THEIR AMENDED TEXT WITH PRC EMBASSY OTTAWA AND RECEIVED GENERAL GO-AHEAD, BUT NO FIRM CLEARANCE. CANADIANS RELYING UPON THIS AND HAVE GONE TO PRINT WITH CATALOG. PROBLEM OF CATALOG MAPS, TEXT AND ORDER OF DISPLAY HAS BEEN COSTLY HEADACHE AND

PRIMARY IRRITANT BETWEEN CHINESE AND OTHER HOST COUNTRIES.
WE SUSPECT PROBLEM CAUSED BY CHINESE UNWILLINGNESS TO
GRANT CLEARANCE UNTIL THEY SEE PUBLISHED CATALOG, BY
WHICH TIME IT TOO LATE TO AVOID EXPENSIVE REVISIONS.
CANADIANS MAY BE ON RIGHT TRACK WITH AMENDED TEXT, BUT
MAY BE MAKING MISTAKE IN NOT FOLLOWING ORDER OF DISPLAY
WHICH CONFORMS ORDER OF EXHIBITS AS LISTED IN ANNEX A.
IN ANY EVENT WE NEED BEST GUIDANCE YOU CAN GET. TO
AVOID ONE RECURRENT SOURCE OF FRICTION WE PLAN TO HAVE
NO REPEAT NO MAP IN OUR CATALOG REGARDLESS OF WHAT
CANADIANS DO.) YOU MAY INFORM CHINESE OF OUR DECISION
TO ELIMINATE MAP.

5. DATES OF EXHIBITION - WE WISH TO ASK CHINESE CON-
SIDERATION FOR MINOR ALTERATION IN DATES THAT EXHIBITION
WILL BE IN US. DATES PROPOSED BY CHINESE (DECEMBER 8
TO JUNE 7) APPARENTLY ARE INTENDED TO INDICATE FIRST TO
LAST DAY OF PUBLIC SHOWING AND DO NOT ENCOMPASS STANDARD
21 DAYS NEEDED TO DISMANTLE, SHIP AND MOUNT EXHIBIT
PRIOR TO DECEMBER 8 NOR SIMILAR LOGISTICAL PERIOD
FOLLOWING CLOSING IN KANSAS CITY. STRICT SIX MONTH
PERIOD DOES NOT, HOWEVER, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT 21 DAYS
NEEDED BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND KANSAS CITY AND THUS WOULD
DIMINISH LENGTH OF TIME SHOW ACTUALLY IS OPEN TO PUBLIC
FROM 182 DAYS TO 161 DAYS. THEREFORE, WE WISH TO ASK
CHINESE TO CONSIDER ADDING 21 DAYS WHICH WOULD PERMIT
KANSAS CITY SHOW TO CLOSE JUNE 28, AND THUS PERMIT FULL
SIX MONTHS DURING WHICH EXHIBITION ACTUALLY CAN BE SEEN
BY AMERICAN PEOPLE.

6. FYI: WE WILL BE SENDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR
NEGOTIATIONS ON LETTERS, PROTOCOL AND ORAL AGREEMENTS
IN TIME TO REACH YOU BY JUNE 1. RUSH
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARTS, CULTURAL EXHIBITS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, MUSEUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE110285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CHILL:YLP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740131-0760
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740518/aaaaapkh.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: PEKING 0761
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION: MUSEUMS, CATALOG, AND DATES
TAGS: SCUL, CH
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005